

Extension Activities

1. Find out the birth, death, and infant mortality rates for two “Western” countries (e.g., the United States and Germany) and two developing countries (e.g., Iran and Mozambique). In a short essay, compare and contrast the rates for these countries and speculate why rates are different in different areas and what the impacts of these rates might be.
2. Use newspapers and magazines to research immigration issues in the news today. Identify “pull” and “push” factors for the immigrants discussed in the articles and try to determine the ways in which these immigrant groups change the characteristics of the places to which they move. Write a report on your findings, concluding an assessment of any pro- and anti-immigrant sentiments expressed in the articles.
3. Research a country very different from your own to find out what daily life is like there. Write a story or dialogue about a person arriving in the United States from that country. What new things might that person experience, and how might he or she react? Next, write a story about what it might be like for you to go to that person’s country. Try to be as realistic as you can, based on the things you’ve learned in your research.
4. Map the locations of primary, secondary, and tertiary economic activities in your hometown. Write labels on or next to the map to show where each type of activity occurs.
5. Research a conflict occurring in the world today. Find out where the conflict is, who’s involved, and why the conflict arose in the first place. Write an essay describing your findings and state your opinion on how this conflict might be resolved.